

KARACHI

Sunset **05:48pm**
Sunrise (Tomorrow) **06:43am**

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum **16°C**
Maximum **31°C**
Humidity **33%**
Outlook **Sunny**

METRO
South

**Rybakina topples
Pegula to book place in
WTA Finals title clash**

Pg.19 SPORT



ARTISTS representing six countries perform an act titled *The Conference of Birds* as part of the World Culture Festival at the Arts Council on Friday evening.
—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

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Citizens' health at risk as 'hazardous' clouds of dust, smog hang in the air

- Hospitals report large number of chest infection cases, including pneumonia
- People urged to wear face masks and avoid going out unnecessarily
- Experts stress need for eating nutritious food to raise immunity levels

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: With a significant drop in minimum temperature, Karachi has been experiencing what the Met Office has described as “hazardous smog” that poses a serious health risk to people, particularly children.

Health experts have called upon the general public and vulnerable citizens to wear face masks to protect themselves from cold and raise their immunity levels by eating nutritious food.

The situation, they said, had worsened due to clouds

of dust being generated throughout the day from the many under-construction sites in the city.

Speaking to *Dawn*, Chief Meteorologist Ameer Hyder Laghari explained that what Karachi was experiencing early morning these days was not fog but rather “hazardous” smog — a type of intense air pollution that reduces visibility and harms human health and the environment.

“In winters, the cold weather slows down the movement of air pollutants and the low wind speed fails to disperse them, leading to the build-up of smog. For fog to happen, we need high moisture content in the air that we don't have right now,” he said, warning about the health impact of smog especially on children.

The data released by the Pakistan Meteorological Department showed that the minimum temperature has dropped from 20 degrees Celsius this Monday (Nov 3) to 17 degrees Celsius on Friday (Nov 7). Relative humidity early morning was 17 and 16 per cent in the morning and evening on Friday, respectively.

On Friday, according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) report, Karachi has been ranked the fourth most polluted city in the world. The air quality has been declared “hazardous” to human health, said an APP report.

Wearing face masks

According to health experts, taking precautions — especially wearing a face mask and avoiding going out unnecessarily — is the best way to protect oneself from air pollution and to minimise the risk of respiratory illnesses.

“But, this is hard to implement in case of children. There is no doubt that dust allergy has become a major problem in Karachi and children have been the worst hit. In recent weeks, we have been seeing a huge number of cases of chest infection, many of them with pneumonia requiring admission,” said senior paediatrician Dr Ved Vaswani, currently associated with Burhani Hospital and Al-Mustafa Medical Centre, adding that the situation hadn't improved yet.

Seconding his opinion, Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro representing the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) said that cases of chest infections in children had risen dramatically.

“Delayed medical intervention leads to pneumonia. Its symptoms include fever, severe coughing and difficulty in breathing,” he said. He emphasised that junk food is harmful and stressed the need to eat healthy food. He said that children should be protected from cold especially at midnight when there was a sudden drop in temperature.

Judge rejects police report on custodial death, orders FIA to launch probe into suspect's killing

- Asks IGP to take departmental action against Kalakot police
- Findings proved that Sikander's death was custodial homicide, court observes

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: While rejecting the opinion of an investigating officer (IO) in a case pertaining to the custodial death of a man detained on charges of motorcycle theft, a judicial magistrate has directed the Sindh police chief to take depart-

mental action against the officials of the Kalakot police station allegedly involved in torture, negligence, and abuse of authority and referred the case to the FIA for further investigation.

The direction was made by Judicial Magistrate (South) Naeem Akhtar, who referred the case to the Federal Investigation Agency under Section 5 of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, for an impartial and transparent investigation into the matter.

In its detailed order against a final charge sheet submitted by the IO in which he had suggested to take cognizance against private persons and attempted to “cover up a custodial killing”, the court noted that it disagreed with the final report submitted under Section 173 of the CrPC.

“The inquest and post-mortem find-

ings conclusively prove that Sikander's death was a custodial homicide, resulting from torture, unlawful confinement and gross negligence,” it added.

Regarding the delay and concealment of facts, the judge wrote in its order that the record reflects that the incident allegedly occurred in March, 2025 when some private persons accused the deceased (Sikander) of motorcycle theft and later the police registered a case against the suspect under Section 381-A of the Pakistan Penal Code.

“It is important to note that at the time of receiving the custody, a memo of arrest and recovery dated 13.03.2025 at 06:30 hours was prepared. A careful examination of this memo reveals that there is no mention whatsoever that the accused was in an injured or critical condition. Likewise, no roznamcha entry has been produced to indicate that Sikander

was brought to the police station in such a condition.

“It further appears that after arrest, the accused was directly confined in the lock-up, and no intimation was made to the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC), although the alleged offence under Section 381-A of the PPC exclusively falls within the jurisdiction of the AVLC for investigation. No record has been produced showing that the mandatory information was conveyed to the AVLC or that custody was transferred.

“Instead, Sikander continued to remain in the lock-up of police station Kalakot until his health deteriorated to a gasping state, ultimately resulting in his death. Sikander died on 13.03.2025. However, the FIR regarding his abduction and subsequent events was lodged

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Notices issued on JI petition against e-challan system

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday issued notices to the Sindh chief secretary, the secretary of the home department and others on a petition filed by leaders of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) against the recently introduced e-challan system in the metropolis.

A two-judge bench of the SHC, comprising Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kaihorro and Justice Syed Fiaz Ul Hassan Shah, also put the Advocate General on notice for Nov 25.

JI Karachi chief Monem Zafar Khan, opposition leader in the City Council Advocate Saifuddin and party's MPA Muhammad Farooq asked the SHC to suspend the operation and implementation of the e-challan system and restrain respondents from issuing, processing or recovering any penalty till the final disposal of their petition.

They submitted that the AI-based e-challan system was implemented in Karachi without ensuring necessary road infrastructure, a vehicle ownership verification mechanism and installation of proper speed limit and other essential traffic signboards.

They contended that they were aggrieved by the arbitrary notification imposing the e-challan system with exorbitant and discriminatory fines as the impugned system operated through CCTV and AI-enabled cameras, automatically detecting alleged traffic violations and issuing challans to the registered owners of the vehicles.

They also argued that coercive measures were being taken as a drastic increase in fines, blocking of CNICs, suspension of driving licences and impounding of vehicles over non-payment amount to punishment without due process of law.

ANP worker shot dead in Janjal Goth home

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An activist of the Awami National Party was gunned down near New Subzi Mandi off Superhighway on Friday evening, police said.

Sohrab Goth DSP Aurangzeb Khattak said that unidentified assailants forcibly entered 55-year-old Samiullah's home in Janjal Goth, shot him and fled. He was taken to a nearby private hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival, he said. Later, the body was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

He said that the victim was affiliated with the ANP. However, he said it appeared that the murder had nothing to do with his political association. He suspected some personal enmity behind the incident. The deceased originally hailed from Bajaur.

Meanwhile, a young man suffered a bullet wound while passing through a Korangi area during a violent protest against an anti-encroachment drive on Friday evening, police said.

The Awami Colony police said that the passer-by was identified as Ali Hasan, 25. They said that he was injured when someone in the protest fired shots in their attempt to resist the anti-encroachment operation.

The wounded man was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for treatment.

Well-known speakers, literary figures to feature in Adab Festival

Two-day event to kick off on Nov 22 at Habitt City

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The press conference to announce the 10th Adab Festival, to take place between Nov 22 and 23, at Habitt City here on Friday was more than just a curtain-raiser. It was, as jokingly pointed out by the Festival's Founder and Director Ameena Saiyid, a reminder of the courage and resilience of a woman, who launched a start-up in her seventies. Also those who stood by her every step of the way, her friend, the late writer and translator Asif Farrukhi and her late husband Aamer Aziz Saiyid, were not forgotten.

This will also be the first Adab Festival without Mr Saiyid, who never missed a festival organised by his better half, be it this festival or the Karachi Literature Festival, which was also started by Ameena. For the record, this is not the 10th year of the Adab Festival. Still, it is the 10th as they have held

more than one festivals in a single year.

While providing an overview of the 10th Adab Festival, Ameena said that entry, as always, will be free and throughout the two days of the event they will have simultaneous sessions in various languages including local languages such as Sindhi, Punjabi, Seraiki, Balochi, Pashto and also Burushaski, which is spoken in Gilgit-Baltistan. Plus, there will be book launches, panel discussions, *mushairas* at the various areas of Habitt.

As in the past, the Adab Festival's carefully curated programme will feature an impressive range of diverse speakers including Zehra Nigah, Kishwer Naheed, Shandana Minhas, Noorul Huda Shah, Farhatullah Babar, Mian Raza Rabbani, Kashif Raza, Ziad Zafar, Peerzada Salman, Nadeem Farooq Paracha, Bina Shah, Amin Gulgee, Dr Faisal Mushtaq, Sultana Siddiqui, Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, Sharmila Faruqi, Shazia Marri, retired General Moinuddin Hyder, Dr Mohammad Ali Shaikh, Shabbir Zaidi, Syed Salim Raza, Saif Samejo, Salma Alam, Omayr Aziz Saiyid, Nadia Naqi, Fazil Jamili, Mazhar Abbas, Azhar Abbas, Naila Mahmood, Omar Shahid Hamid, Safinah Danish Elahi, Dr

Huma Baqai and more.

All notable recently published books will be discussed.

The Adab Festival/Infaq Foundation Awards will also be announced, recognising outstanding writings in Urdu, English, and Sindhi.

Moreover, there will be music and entertainment, a creative writing workshop for kids aged 12 to 18 by the young author Taha Kehar, and much more. Atif Badar will hold a session for young children, award-winning investigative journalist Ziad Zafar will hold a session for journalists, actors Khaled Anam, Misbah Khalid, Junaid Khan and Arshad Mahmood will be focusing on drama and music and senior journalist Sumera Saeed Naqvi will do a book talk in view of her recently published translation of her grandfather Syed Mohammad Taqi's book *Karbala, Tehzeeb ka Mustaqbil* titled *The Future of Civilization* where she will discuss the burning issues of our society.

Actor, writer and translator Shama Askari; Arts Programme Coordinator at the British Council Khadija Hussaini and lawyer Waheed Noor were among the many guests who also spoke at the press conference.



AMEENA Saiyid presents a comprehensive overview of the 10th Adab Festival.
— Fahim Siddiqi / White Star